

MHRT130001602026



IN THE COURT OF ADDL. SESSIONS JUDGE, CHIPLUN

(Presided over by A.M.Ambalkar, I/c.Addl. Sessions Judge, Chiplun)

CRIMINAL BAIL APPLICATION NO. 23 OF 2026

(CNR No.MHRT13000160-2026)

Shri. Ashish Santosh Sawant,
Age 33 years, Occu.:- Service,
R/o. Room No.B/6, Versova
Andheri Ashiyana CHS, SVP
Nagar, Mhada, Near Janakidevi
Public School, Azadnagar,
Andheri West, Mumbai
For Service purpose
R/o. Kalambaste, Chiplun,
Tal. Chiplun, Dist. Ratnagiri.

Applicant.

Vs.

State of Maharashtra,
(Through Alore-Shirgaon Police Station,
Tal. Chiplun, Dist. Ratnagiri
(Crime No. 26/2026)

Opponent.

Order Below Exh. 01

(Dictated and delivered in open Court on 02.06.2026)

1. Applicant/accused no.6 Ashish Santosh Sawant has filed this bail application U/Sec. 482 of The Bharatiya Nagarik

Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for grant of pre-arrest bail in Crime No. 26/2026 for the offence punishable under Sections 108, 351(3), 115(2), 308(2), 3(5) of the BNS, registered at Alore Shirgaon Police Station, Tal. Chiplun, Dist. Ratnagiri.

2. Prosecution story in brief is as under:-

The informant Shri. Murlidhar Dhondjirao Palande lodged report and thereby made allegations that the accused abetted to commit suicide of his son namely Mukund. He made allegations that on 22/05/2026, his son went out of house for some work and did not return to house till late night. Hence, he gave missing report. Thereafter he received message from his relative namely Sachin Palande that Mukund has sent him suicide note and he was going to commit suicide. Therefore on the basis of mobile location, they all went to take search with police at Kolkewadi, Tambadwadi on TRT canal bridge. There they found red colour pulsar motorcycle bearing MH-08-T-9030 belonging to his son. Dead body of his son could not be found there. The mobile phone of his son was found switched off. They took search of his son in the waters with the help of boat belonging to Municipal Council Chiplun and also with the help of police within the area Kolkewadi dam and TRT, they found the dead body of Mukund was floating.

3. They found suicide note of his son in the bag of his son in the house. It was written in the suicide note that, 'on 21/05/2026 at about 6:00 pm, Akhilesh Khedekar came to his

bank and called him outside the bank where Anokhi Khedekar, Ashish Sawant and Dhananjay Shete were present. They were saying that he or Sanket Mali harassed to Anokhi Khedekar and they are responsible for losing job by Anokhi from HDFC bank. They were also saying that he has sent one letter(anonymous letter) wherein very filthy language was used in respect of her. They gave threats to him. He started to run from there. Two police personnel intervened and rescued him from beating by those persons. They all gave threats to kill him and also they will cause losing him job and not getting any job in Chiplun. He got frightened. They were also telling to admit that he sent the said letter at the address of Anokhi otherwise they will kill him. He helped to Anokhi Khedekar when she was serving in HDFC Bank. She misappropriated the amount of customer four times. At that time, he helped her. She was seen in CCTV camera recording while committing theft from cash from Bank. Therefore she was fired from job. In the month of November 2025, Anokhi offered him to go on drive and he took her by his car at about 6:00 pm towards Savarde. They were eating Wadapaav at one Spot. They were talking with each other and she came to close to him and he lost his balance and there was kissing between them for sometime. Both were treating to each other well. He gave duty of cash counter to her, therefore her friend Dhananjay was angry with him. He helped to Dhananjay by paying Rs.2,00,000/-. When he demanded the said amount, the Dhananjay quarreled with him. When there was shortage of amount in cash counter, he gave that amount

to Anokhi. She did not return to him. Then he came to know that Anokhi and Dhananjay were having illicit relations. Since January 2026, Dhananjay blackmailed him and obtained Rs.25,000/- by saying that he was having video of kissing between him and Anokhi and he will tell about it to his wife and his life will be spoiled. Again Dhananjay made demand of Rs.2,00,000/- he refused to give him, then he gave threats that if deceased will not pay the Dhananjay and Anokhi Rs.1,00,000/- he will make the said video viral. He asked that amount to his friend Amol. Amol asked reason. He did not tell him and did not demand the amount again. In the month of May second week, Dhananjay handed over one envelope to send the same by currier at the address of Anokhi. He did not send the same. Again Dhananjay met and told him to send the said currier and he will delete the said video. Thereafter he sent the said envelope in the post without going through the contents of letter. The said currier was received on the address of Anokhi on 21st May. All of them were making allegations against him and Sanket Mali. Sanket Mali has no concern with it. Dhananjay and Anokhi dragged deceased in this matter to hide their illicit relations. On 21/05/2026, while beating to him, they were saying once the letter is received, then he will be finished. He got frightened. Anokhi and Dhananjay were intending to extract money from him. Dhananjay used to meet him while going to house alone and used to make demand of money. He had no other option. The dispute between himself and his wife is pending in the Court. They were giving threats

to tell about this too his wife. Nobody was hearing him. He is already suffered various problem. No options are left to him. He is having nothing to prove himself right. Therefore after thinking a lot, he decided to commit suicide as he has been defamed and his family will suffer defamation, therefore Anokhi Khedekar, Dhananjay Shete, Yogesh More, Vedant Takale, Akhilesh Khedekar, Ashish Sawant (Saraswat Bank) and their colleagues are responsible for his death. They made filthy and wild allegations against him without hearing him and defamed him. He has not written a single false word in this letter and they are only responsible for his death.' The informant thereafter lodged this report.

4. Applicant submitted that he is innocent and has not committed any criminal act. The applicant and the deceased Mukund Palande have never been employed in the same place or even in the same bank. There is no connection between the applicant and the deceased Mukund Palande. There was no any dispute between them. That is why the late Mukund Palande has never filed any simple complaint against the applicant regarding any harassment. While perusing the present FIR, it is worth noting that although the said crime has been registered under Section 108 of the B. N. S. Act, Section 108 is not applicable to the said crime. Nothing in the possession of the accused in connection with the said crime is to be seized. Nothing is to be recovered or discovered from him. The applicant does not have any criminal antecedents. The

applicant will not coerce, promise or induce any of the witnesses of the prosecution, nor he will interfere in the investigation.

5. The applicant is a resident of room No. B6, Versova Andheri Ashiyana CHS, SVP Nagar, MHADA, near Janakidevi Public School, Azadnagar, Andheri West, Mumbai. He has immovable property at the said place. The applicant is working as Deputy Manager at Saraswat Bank Branch Chiplun. Therefore, due to the job, the applicant is residing at Mouje Kalambaste, Tal. Chiplun, Dist. Ratnagiri. If the applicant is granted bail, he will not abscond anywhere. The applicant is from a respected family in the society. If he is arrested, his reputation in the society will be reduced and he will suffer a loss that can never be compensated even with money. The applicant has a family consisting of the his elderly parents and wife and he is responsible for all those family members. Pursuant to the complaint filed by the applicant, the police have registered a case against him under wrong sections. If he is granted anticipatory bail, there will be no adverse impact on the social level. The complaint presented does not indicate that the applicant has committed any criminal act, nor does it indicate the applicant's criminal intent. The applicant has not attempted to destroy any evidence and will not do so in the future. The applicant is ready to strictly abide by all the terms and conditions imposed by the Court. On perusing the FIR, it is *prima facie* apparent that the informant has filed a false

complaint out of remorse and revenge, simply because the informant did not speak to accused No. 1 and did not break the friendly relations with him. The applicant has not filed an application for anticipatory bail in the said offence in any other Court except this. Finally, it is prayed to allow the anticipatory bail application.

6. Investigating Officer filed his say at Exh.12 and strongly resisted the application and submitted that the offence is serious one. It is submitted that there is very strong documentary evidence against the accused/applicant. The offence is serious one. It is submitted that the name of the accused is mentioned in the suicide note written by the deceased. It is necessary to investigate by obtaining information about him and other witnesses in connection with the crime. The applicant/accused has been absconding since the commission of this crime till date. Since the said accused is directly involved in the said crime, his custody is necessary for investigation. The accused/applicant is working in Saraswat Bank Chiplun. The accused No. 1 was also working in Saraswat Bank before being appointed in HDFC Bank Chiplun. Therefore, the accused Ashish Sawant and the accused No. 1 are acquainted since beginning and they have committed the said crime in collusion with the accused Dhananjay Shete. Therefore, the exact involvement of the accused/applicant Ashish Sawant in the said crime remains to be clarified. In the suicide note written by the deceased Mukund Palande, it is

stated that the accused/applicant was physically present at the scene of the incident and he had tried to threaten and assaulted the deceased in collusion. Therefore, it is necessary to arrest him and interrogate him further to obtain evidence in connection with the crime. The accused/applicant is absconding and if bail is granted, there is a possibility that he will threaten or intimidate witnesses. The accused along with other co-accused, has committed a very serious crime. If the accused is released on bail, there is a high possibility that he will abscond again. The investigation of the present matter is yet to be completed and if the accused is granted bail, there is a strong possibility that he will destroy evidence of prosecution. Finally, it is prayed to reject the application.

7. Heard learned Advocate Shri. S. D. Tawade for the applicant and learned APP Shri. P. S. Shetye for the State.

8. Ld. Advocate Shri. S. D. Tawade for the applicant/accused relied upon following judgments.

1. Pravin s/o. Ganpat Lokhande Vs. The State of Maharashtra and another, in Anticipatory Bail Application No.1684 of 2024, decided on 24th June, 2024, by Hon'ble High Court at Judicature at Bombay.
2. Ashok Sopan Kalaskar Vs. The State of Maharashtra, 2016 ALL MR (Cri) 3961
3. Geeta d/o. Pareyaldas Panjwani Vs. State of Maharashtra, 2024 ALL MR (Cri) 4334

4. Arvind @ Arun s/o. Kalyan Gajbhare & Ors., Vs. The State of Maharashtra & Anr., 2020 ALL MR (Cri) 2848

9. Learned Advocate Shri. S. D. Tawade for the applicant produced on record the copies of FIR and Aadhaar card of applicant, anonymous letter received to accused no.1 by post and screenshot of e-Court App in respect of case registered against deceased and also copy of FIR filed against deceased by his wife Ashwini Deelip Sawant, etc..

10. Learned APP produced investigating papers and case diaries. It appears from record that offence has been registered on 24/05/2026. The accused namely Anokhi, Yogesh More, Vedant Takale and Akhilesh Khedekar have been arrested on 25/05/2026. As such, investigation appears to have just commenced prior to about six to seven days.

11. Learned Advocate Shri. Tawade vehemently submitted that even after perusal of suicide note, there appears not a single word which can indicate that the offence under section 108 of BNS can be attributed to the present applicant. There are no allegations either in respect of instigation, intentional aid or conspiracy for committing suicide by deceased. He further submitted that the applicant is working in Bank and he is from respected family. There are no antecedents or criminal history against the present applicant. The arrest of accused is absolutely unwarranted and it would

serve no purpose. Investigation can be carried out without custody of present applicant. The prescribed punishment is not life imprisonment. The presence of accused has not been shown with deceased just prior to committing suicide. He prayed to allow the bail application.

12. Ld. APP vehemently submitted that a young bank employee who is well educated has been compelled to commit suicide. He lost his life and prior to committing suicide, he has given very detail and categoric information about the circumstances created by all the accused which left no option except to commit suicide. He invited my attention towards the suicide notes and contents therein and submitted that it describes the role of each person who created mental pressure upon the deceased. He further submitted that without custody of present applicant, investigation of entire case cannot be completed. If the accusations found to be false, the accused may adopt legal recourse, however because of non arrest of present applicant, investigation could not be completed, that would cause serious prejudice to the prosecution. He prayed to reject the application.

13. I have gone through the investigation papers, consisting of statements of various witnesses and panchanamas. The investigation papers shows that investigation is in progress. Suicide note clearly shows the name of present applicant. Although minute specifications are

not mentioned in the suicide note, there appears definite role of present applicant in the present offence. Therefore I am of opinion that investigation cannot proceed further without custody of present applicant. The offence is serious one. The custody of applicant seems necessary for investigation. Hence, I came to conclusion that there is no substance in the present application and applicant cannot be said to be entitled to grant of anticipatory bail. Hence, I proceed to pass following order.

ORDER

1. Application is hereby rejected.
2. Inform the concerned accordingly.

Date :- 02.06.2026

(A. M. Ambalkar)
I/c. Additional Sessions Judge, Chiplun.

I affirm that the contents of this P.D.F. file order are same, word to word, as per the original order.

Case Number		Cri. Bail Appln. No. 23/2026
Name of Stenographer	:-	Shri. Rajesh G. Rahate
Name of Court	:-	Addl. Sessions Judge, Chiplun
Date of Dictation	:-	02.06.2026
Order signed by the P.O. on	:-	02.06.2026
Order uploaded on	:-	02.06.2026